

Message Text

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64

ACTION H-02

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FM AMCONSUL FUKUOKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 652

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS FUKUOKA 0226

H PASS: HON CLEARENCE D. LONG. US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WASHDC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, JA

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: SS CAPE ERIMO BOAT CASE - FAMILY
OF VU VAN HUONG

REF: CONGRESSMAN LONG'S LETTER OF OCT. 8, 1976

1. CONGRESSMAN LONG'S LETTER ARRIVED FUKUOKA VIA POUCH TODAY
(DEC 2).

2. AMONG THIRTY ONE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM THE SS CAPE ERIMO
WHO ARRIVED IN KITAKYUSHU, TWENTY FOUR REFUGEES HAVE ALREADY
MOVED TO THE UNITED STATES APPROVED BY DEPT OF STATE UNDER INDO-
CHINESE REFUGEES EXPANDED PAROLE PROGRAM (EPP). UNDER THE CURRENT
REGULATIONS, THEY WERE ALL DEFINED AS 3RD PRIORITY CATEGORY 1 -
NEWLY ESCAPING REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA WHO ARRIVE BY BOAT AND WHO
QUALIFY UNDER EPP CRITERIA 1-111, CATEGORY 1 ENCOMPASSES THOSE
WHO ARE CLOSE RELATIVES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, OF PERMANENT
RESIDENT ALIENS, OR OF REFUGEES PAROLED INTO THE US. CLOSE
RELATIVES ARE DEFINED AS SPOUSES, PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, SONS
AND DAUGHTERS, SIBLINGS AND MINOR UNMARRIED GRANDCHILDREN.

3. THE VU VAN HUONG FAMILY (COMPRISING FOUR PERSONS) REMAINS IN
NAGASAKI. UNDER THE EPP THEY ARE DEFINED TO BE 3RD PRIORITY,
CATEGORY 3 AS "HIGH RISK" REFUGEES WHO "WORKED CLOSELY WITH
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U.S. FORCES OR U.S. MISSIONS": AND "REFUGEES WHOSE STATUS AND

POSITION IN THE FORMER GOVERNMENTS OR ARMED FORCES OF VIETNAM, CAMBODIA OR LAOS POSE PARTICULAR OBSTACLES TO THEIR ABSORPTION IN THIRD COUNTRIES".

4. TO DATE THE VU VAN HUONG FAMILY HAS NOT FURNISHED EVIDENCE SHOWING THE CLOSE FAMILY RELATIONSHIP NECESSARY FOR CATEGORY 1 STATUS. AN AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT PROVIDED BY AN AMERICAN CITIZEN IS NOT SUFFICIENT IN AND OF ITSELF TO AUTHORIZE PAROLE INTO THE US AS REFUGEES. AUTHORIZATION FOR PAROLE OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES MUST BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ACCORDING TO THE INDOCHINESE REFUGEE AND MIGRATION ACT OF 1975.

5. FOR CONGRESSMAN LONG'S INTEREST THIS POST IS ALREADY ENGAGED IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH ANOTHER U.S. CITIZEN, DONALD E. UNDERWOOD OF LAFAYETTE, CALIFORNIA, WHO HAS ASKED TO SPONSOR THE VU VAN HUONG FAMILY AND WHO HAS SUBMITTED A LIST OF RELATIVES OF THE FAMILY NOW RESIDING IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WHICH INCLUDES TWO SISTERS. THIS CONSULATE REQUESTED MR. UNDERWOOD BY LETTER ON NOV. 11 TO PROVIDE DETAILS AND DOCUMENTATION WHICH COULD VERIFY THE ABOVE RELATIONSHIPS AND THEREBY PERMIT ELEVATION OF THE FAMILY'S STATUS TO CATEGORY ONE. TO DATE, HOWEVER, NO REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED. CONSULATE WILL FURNISH COPIES OF THIS CORRESPONDENCE TO CONGRESSMAN LONG'S OFFICE BY AIRMAIL.
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